



APR 27 2003

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (ASPE/DHHS), is seeking **six Tribes or Tribal Organizations as volunteers** to participate in the Tribal Self-Governance Evaluation Feasibility Study. A description of this Study is included as part of Attachment A, the original letter sent to the Tribes in December by Merle Boyd and Bobby Jindal, announcing the Study. Please note that this Study will not include an actual evaluation. Any evaluation would be developed subsequent to consultation with Tribes.

The objective of these site visits is to collect information that will help ASPE determine whether it is feasible to conduct an evaluation of Tribal Self-Governance programs. In particular, results will assist in the implementation of a Self-Governance Demonstration Project for certain non-IHS programs of DHHS, if it is authorized by Congress (Attachment B is a partial list of the DHHS programs that may be included in a future Tribal Self-Governance Demonstration Project).

We are seeking Tribes or Tribal Organizations as volunteers to participate in the Evaluation Feasibility Study. These Tribes or Tribal Organizations should have experience with managing IHS or other federal programs under Self-Governance compacts. In addition, volunteers are preferred which have experience with managing the non-IHS programs of DHHS that may be included in a Self-Governance Demonstration Project.

The Evaluation Feasibility Study project staff from Westat -- Kathy Langwell, Cindy Helba, and Brian Colhoff -- will conduct a two-day site visit, during the of Summer 2003, to each of the six selected volunteer Tribes or Tribal Organizations to collect information on:

- History of the Tribe's participation in Self-Governance compacts and Self-Determination contracts;
- Management structure and operational organization of Tribal programs operated under Self-Governance compacts and Self-Determination contracts; and
- Tribal data systems and availability of data on Tribal members served and services provided under Self-Governance compacts and Self-Determination contracts.

The site visit team will meet with Tribal data system staff and program managers to discuss and examine current data systems and data currently collected and available.

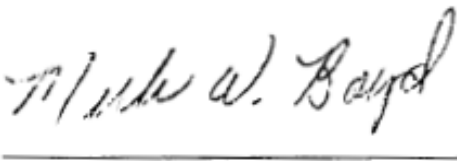
Volunteering (or not volunteering) to participate in the Self-Governance Evaluation Feasibility Study will not affect a Tribe's future participation in a possible Self-Governance Demonstration Project for non-IHS programs of DHHS. If that Demonstration Project is authorized, a separate and unrelated announcement will be made to invite Tribes to participate

If you would like to **volunteer to be a site that is visited** or are interested in **more information** please contact Kathy Langwell at 605-584-2414 or (email) langwell@mato.com.

Please respond by **May 20, 2003** expressing your willingness to participate.

You may also address questions to Andy Rock, the OASPE/DHHS Task Order Manager, at 202-260-0398 or Andy.Rock@hhs.gov.

Sincerely,



Merle W. Boyd
Chairman, Tribal Self-Governance
Advisory Committee



Andrew V. Rock
Task Order Monitor
Evaluation Feasibility Study

Attachments

- [December 11, 2002 letter to Tribal Leaders](#)
- [Programs Feasible for Inclusion in Demonstration Project](#)